

# KALOS

Congregational Church of Almaden Valley—United Church of Christ

December 2013

## Pastor's Reflection



Dear Members and Friends,

We enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas grateful that we are not alone, for as people of faith we wait together for the rebirth of the Light of the World. As a congregation, we stand on the edge to wait and hope with one another for we know that there are many

among us who carry heavy burdens, suffering with pain, illness, sadness, and worry. Let's have a check-in: How are you doing with "Advent" time this year, a season anchored in the dark?

The dreadful prophecies, the portentous hymns, the hectic days full of activity or the lonely days too empty, can eclipse the bright joy we think we should feel. Maybe that is why we like to jump to Christmas, avoiding this somber season of Advent. The good news is that Advent time will help us be ready for Christmas time, a time to make peace with our worries, concerns, and fears. Advent time will ask us to be patient and "love the questions." I know I need this time in my life, what about you?

Remember the book by Rainer Maria Rilke *Letters to a Young Poet*? He writes, "I would like to beg you, dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live with them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer."

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Christmas time invites us to live the questions, live with uncertainty, live with fear, but live knowing that we are never alone. Our difficulties may remain, but we no longer carry them alone. Surely, Advent and Christmas offer the promise that God will not leave. God will not fail. God is ever-present God. This is the good news of the seasons!

I'm grateful for you and our journey together, marking one year as pastor and people. I hope you'll let me know how I may help you with pastoral care needs, spiritual growth, and/ or ways we can sort through burdens together. I am part time yet always have time to "check-in" and be present for you. AND, I thank you for caring for me; your support, in many ways, gives me encouragement and strength in being faithful to my ministry with you.

As we continue into Advent, a season anchored in the dark, let us be glad for the words, "Fear not." Let the words be a gift to us as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ child, the coming of the Light. May we

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lift each other in prayer and the needs of all who suffer and fear this holy season.

May the abiding peace of God's holy presence be with you this Advent and Christmas to give you courage and hope. May we carry the light of Christ, always!

### **Christmas Prayer for Empowerment**

A prayer for you and your healing, a prayer for our church and who we are becoming. (by Kathleen Fischer)

Creator and Healer, you dwell closer to us than the air we breathe, yet far surpass all we can know.

We bless you for the stunning beauty of your cosmos, the gifts you unendingly give.

Forgive us our failure to be grateful and to trust you.

Fill our hearts with your courage, and our minds with your vision of what we might become.

Free us from fear of the dark unknown spaces where you give birth to new possibilities.

You are a God of adventure, and you took a great risk in creating us.

Empower us to become the community of which your heart dreams. Amen.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Michele

## **Upcoming Activities**

### ***November***

- November 21, 10:30 a.m.—ECA Bible Study (CCAV folks invited!)
- November 21, 10:30 a.m.—CCAV/ECA Staff Meeting
- November 23, 10:00 a.m.—Knit Wit Meeting

- Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24, 9:00 a.m.—CCAV Worship, Sermon by Dr. Hi-Dong Chai,
- Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School. Remember to bring your contribution for the Second Harvest Food Bank!
- Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24, 11:30 a.m.—Youth Group. Making Pie Crusts Fundraiser
- Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24—CCAV Outreach  
The CCAV Outreach Team invites your food gifts for the Second Harvest Food Bank. The food bank accepts all non-perishable food donations, but especially needs these nutritious items:
  - Meals in a can (stew, chili, soup)
  - Tuna and canned meat
  - Peanut butter
  - Canned foods with pop-top lids
  - Low-sugar cereals
  - 100% fruit juices in single serving boxes
  - Canned fruit packed in juice
  - Canned vegetables (low salt)

**Note:** The church office will be closed on Wednesday, November 27, and Thursday, November 28.

## **Worship**

### ***December Sundays and Christmas Eve***

Thank you to the following people for leading us in Advent candle lighting liturgy and reading during the Advent/Christmas Seasons. Worship begins at 9:00 a.m. except for December 22!

December 1, 9 a.m.

Jim and Kathryn McAbee

December 8, 9 a.m.

Kathy Graham and Family

December 15, 9 a.m.

Tom and Carla Gerber

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December 15, 7 p.m.  
Contemplative Taize Worship Service  
December 22, 10 a.m.  
JV Christmas Pageant, Children and Youth  
6:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling  
December 24, Christmas Eve, 7 p.m.  
Connie and Mike Moore  
December 29, 9 a.m.  
Debbie Bemis

**Note:** JV Worship Services—Sunday, December 22, and Sunday, January 19. Thank you for your support of our Joint Venture worship opportunities.

## Happenings

December 8  
Sue Scaff will give a talk on representations of the Annunciation in painting as a part of our celebration of Advent. The talk will be in the Choir Room after the ECA service.

January 5, 9 a.m.—Epiphany Sunday. Worship and Singing Communion

Saturday, December 7, 6 p.m.—Candlelight Christmas Dinner, sign-up sheets on CCAV Bulletin board. \$10/person, pre-pay Connie Moore. Thank you to **Audrey Wiedrick**, coordinator! To help out please contact Audrey at (408) 268-3843 or email at [audrey957@yahoo.com](mailto:audrey957@yahoo.com).

Sunday, December 15—Roundtable Discussion. Join us for the next Roundtable Discussion during Coffee Hour. The subject is UCC Resolution on Immigration Reform. Handouts are available. We'll learn more about how we approach immigration reform in UCC and the approach of other faith groups.

Sunday, December 15, 7 p.m.—Taize Worship Service for our Joint Venture churches and community. Advent waiting and watching with prayer, candles and silence.

## *Shalom and ECA Choirs Clinic Dates*

Clinics will be conducted for the ECA and Shalom Choirs by Lou De La Rosa on this schedule:

- ECA choir—Thursday December 12
- UCC Shalom choir—Wednesday December 18

Please plan to arrive at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

## Board Positions

Who should serve on CCAV Council or the JV Board for 2014? Have you served on one or both of these boards before? Then, bring your experience back to the table! Haven't served before? Then, bring your talents and perspectives, and join us once a month! CCAV has open positions for two Council members and three JV representatives. Council meets at 7:00 pm the second Tuesday of the month and JV meets at 7:30 pm the third Tuesday of each month. They both hold their meetings at the church. Contact Connie Moore to volunteer or mark your Time and Talent form.

Want to serve as a liturgist, coffee hour host, communion server or contribute flowers? Please call or email our church office ([office@jointventurechurches.org](mailto:office@jointventurechurches.org)) or sign up on matrix on CCAV Board.

## Prayers

### *Healing, Comfort, Encouragement and Blessing*

Toh-Bee Syn  
Barbara Alumbaugh  
Lori Yang  
Phyllis Green  
Shirley Lucas  
Ariss Thomas  
Paul Shipe  
Michelle Hwang (friend of Phyllis Chai)  
Service women and men  
Our UCC and UCC neighbor churches in the Santa Clara Association.

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## Welcome Visitor!

Whether you're visiting with us because you're looking for a church, or accompanying a friend or family member, we bid you a hearty welcome!

We welcome all who would join us on our journey—for a day, a week or a lifetime—to discover who we are now and who we can become on this road of faith and inquiry.

We embrace our diversity of thought and scriptural understanding. We respect and honor all who seek to be in covenant with us as we share in the joys and responsibilities of our church family.

We are a warm and friendly bunch, but we're not perfect!

So, if in our excitement to greet our church family members, we forget our manners, please talk to us, introduce yourself and ask us lots of questions!

And if you want to dig deeper and learn more about our church, please visit us at:

[www.CongregationalChurchOfAlmadenValley.org](http://www.CongregationalChurchOfAlmadenValley.org).

We hope you'll return to us soon!

## Moderator's Note



Hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving. I am writing this note prior to Thanksgiving in order to have it ready for the Kalos the first of December. Always a challenge to think beyond what is happening next!

Happening next weekend—in real time—is our year-end annual Congregational meeting.

Toward that end, Pastor Michele, David Hough, Council members, and I have been getting ready to pass on the good news of the "life of the church!"

With Christmas knocking on our doors, we have also been thinking about Outreach. There will be programs we can contribute to during the season and we are also looking hard at some on-going programs we can adopt starting in 2014. Friends Outside have not been in contact with us this year so be aware that other opportunities for giving will be announced in its place.

We are blessed to have such a caring church family. Folks continuing to help in 2014, new folks stepping in to help, and folks always ready to help where there is a need. The 23 Time & Talent Sheets that came back filled out shows that!

Realizing that my next note will not come out until January, I do not want to miss this opportunity to wish you each a blessed new year and thank you for being who you are and a part of my life.

Shalom,  
Connie

## Stewardship

My comments about Stewardship are coming from a different perspective than those from Phyllis, Ted, and Dottie this month. I am going to be more personal, even selfish, in my thoughts. I want to talk specifically about what this church means to me personally and how it has come to be so important.

I did not choose this church. I didn't do research about the UCC and decide I liked their beliefs nor did I choose to come here after a search of other churches in the area. I joined with my parents many years ago when I was a kid. They came by word of mouth, and once they made it into the building, they were hooked. I actually remember the first Sunday we came, and the visit from Rev. Jack to our home a few days after that. Even as a kid on that first Sunday, I remember feeling embraced and welcomed into this church family.

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However, that doesn't mean that I have always been content here. There were three separate times when I considered leaving the church, each time a bit more seriously than the time before. The first time I thought about leaving was after I had finished college and realized that there really wasn't much here for me. I was too old for the youth group and too young to feel comfortable socializing with my parents' friends, and there really weren't any people in the church who were my age. I was at the age where I was questioning for myself what I wanted in a church, and this one wasn't doing it for me. Then my mom was diagnosed with cancer, and everything changed. This church family embraced my mom and provided her with loving kindness and lots of support. It wasn't long before I realized that, not only were they embracing her, but they were embracing me as well—and I desperately needed it. Age and opportunities to socialize were no longer such important factors in a church for me—it was the people who made the church that I needed—and so I stayed.

The second time I thought about leaving was years later, after my mom had died and my kids were in school. Again, when I looked at what was available here for my family and what I thought was important for my kids, this church was falling short for me. Joshua desperately wanted to belong to a youth group, and ours was basically nonexistent at that time. The Sunday school often only had one or two kids in it because there just weren't very many kids my kids' age. Alex, with his special needs, wasn't really able to fit in comfortably anywhere. And because of the obvious communication issues with my deaf daughter, Kristie got all her access to church activities through either Jan's or my hands. We had to interpret church services, be available to see that she was included in all church activities, and go with her to Sunday School in order for her to understand anything. Although people were friendly and interested in Kristie, no one could communicate with her, and we could see how isolated she was in church. I looked into churches with services and fellowship for the Deaf and with active youth groups and

Christian Ed programs for my kids and seriously thought about changing churches, but I couldn't bring myself to do it—I loved this church too much. I loved the people, and I loved the tie it had for me to my mom, who I missed terribly. I felt bad about the fact that I couldn't bring myself to find a new church. What kind of mother was I not to want to do what was clearly best for my kids? Then I got sick, and it was sort of a moot point. Once again, I needed the support and comfort of my church family.... and I decided it was more important for my kids to see, feel, and experience that than it was for them to have a large, active Christian Ed program to tap into. The church is only as strong as the people in it—and so I stayed.

The third time I almost left was right after the Open and Affirming controversy. As a general rule, I am a pretty private person, and I had to force myself out of my comfort zone to be involved in O&A at all. I would have preferred to crawl under a rock until the whole thing was over. Not being someone who likes to rock the boat, I decided that I would be OK with a congregational vote either FOR or AGAINST O&A, and that I would stay regardless. It was never the thought of the outcome of the vote that discouraged me, but as we went through the process, it was the behavior of many of the people in this congregation that really made me ultimately decide I wouldn't be a part of it anymore. The process was extremely painful for many of us, and I have to admit that I took some things personally. I heard people talking, sometimes quite loudly, in very public places about their feelings related to O&A and their feelings about gay people in general. I heard people making very negative statements about other people in our congregation and complaining about how they were handling themselves. These were people who were both FOR and AGAINST O&A, and the things said were not what I considered to be very Christian-like. I overheard one conversation in the Narthex about my family specifically, which really threw me for a loop and almost did me in. As a general rule, I think most people were honestly trying to be respectful of me and my feelings, but there were those private not so quiet conversa-

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tions in public places that were difficult for me to let go of. I was on the O&A committee, and I know how hard we tried, but I wasn't always happy with some of our conversations either. I found myself torn and confused about my feelings, and I realized that I was deeply hurt about how the whole process was going. I was also deeply discouraged, and I made a decision that I would see it through, but that once we had the vote, regardless of the outcome, I would leave the church.

Again, though, something changed for me. As I went through this very painful process, I realized that this was exactly where I wanted and needed to be. When I was finally able to step back and take my emotions out of it, it was clear that we all wanted the same thing. There were a lot of hurt feelings and many misunderstandings, but ultimately the people who decided to stay chose to stay for the same reasons. It didn't make any difference that we didn't agree on the issue. I saw people who were FOR O&A leave, and I saw people who were AGAINST O&A stay. The common denominator for me was the passion we all had for our church family, and that we were all willing to take the bad along with the good and stick it out together. And so I stayed.

Once I was clear on my decision to stay, I knew that something had actually changed *within* me. It had an epiphany of sorts. For me it was no longer about what the church was (or wasn't) providing for me. I embraced my church family just as they had embraced me, and I knew I needed—and really wanted—to take a much more active role. I requested to be on Council, and on JV, and I actually called Kathryn McAbee, moderator at that time, and asked to be on the search committee even before there was talk of forming it. Being on the search committee is what made me realize what we truly have here and how important it is for me personally to nurture it – and how important it is for all of us to share it. It isn't about the church providing for me, but about me providing for the church.

Today's message is supposed to be about Stewardship, and you may be asking how my story is related to that. The answer is simple. Although it has taken me awhile to get to this point, within my heart I have now fully committed myself to this church because I now really understand what we have to offer—and I know the potential we have to go further. Stewardship means living generously. It is a matter of action, intention, and heart. We clearly have the heart, and we honestly have the intention. The action is the responsibility of each one of us. I hope you will join me in living generously—by giving generously. We need not only your monetary gifts, but also your gifts of talent, and even more importantly, your gifts of time. If you value what we have here within these walls as much as I do, you also know and understand the importance of sharing all of our gifts so that we may live generously *outside* of these walls.

Thank you,  
Debbie Bemis

## Christian Education

We have completed our fall curriculum and in this year's sequence the children have studied some very exciting and interesting personalities from the Old Testament. There were those "called to be a servant of God," which included Deborah, Hannah, and Samuel. Then David took center stage beginning with his encounter with Goliath. Perhaps you noticed the children's rendition of Goliath on display in "the center." We concluded our studies with two prophets. First we studied Elijah, who orchestrated a duel between God and Baal, and then Elisha, showing us how God does provide. Now we will move into the New Testament with the birth of Jesus and our Christmas Pageant, scheduled for Sunday, December 22, at a Joint Venture Service.

The Christmas Pageant this year is going to be a real "church family affair." Young and old alike can take part creatively as actors, costume and set designers, and script

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writers. Maybe you prefer “grunt work” like slicing and dicing in the kitchen or mixing and matching and ironing costumes. Maybe you prefer to be inspirational with music or prayer. Everyone who joins our festivities, Saturday December 21, at 3 p.m. can fill the role they like the most as we put our pageant together....together. We will work on our pageant plans from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. and then conclude with a kid friendly dinner. We will put forth our creation to the rest of our congregations Sunday morning.

Join us and let the story come alive anew, in you, as you experience it. All ages are welcome. Bring your neighbors and their children. Bring your grandchildren, even grown up ones. Come be a part of our first “It’s a Family Affair Christmas Pageant.” Stretch a little out of your comfort zone. This will be fun! Look for the sign up on the bulletin board. It is very important we get a head count for adults, kids, and kids’ ages to plan for this special event.

On a whole other note, as I begin planning for our VBS program, June 16–20, I first need to determine how much staff I can have available. I need at least three people to be “teachers” for Bible, science, and art. All curriculum and materials are provided. If I can have four teachers, I have another idea. If you cannot volunteer all week, I could entertain a team to cover one area. Please let me know if you would like to do this with me this year.

In your faithful service,  
Susie Ferguson

## Fall 2013 Meeting of the Santa Clara Association

The Fall meeting of our UCC Santa Clara Association was held on Sunday afternoon November 3, at the Foothills UCC in Los Altos. “Our own” Melanie Weiner, the Moderator, ably led the meeting. It is always desired that clergy and lay members be present to conduct planned business, and in fact, a required number of each is necessary to do so.

Two motions were considered and voted on during the recent meeting.

Motion #1 dealt with the Association requiring candidates for ordination to receive a paid call in order to be ordained. The motion was re-worded at the meeting, but the above was the gist of it. The motion “passed”.

Motion #2 directed the Executive Committee of the Association to create a working group to examine how the Association can most effectively support just compensation for clergy working in various settings of our Association, and ask them to report to the Association at the Spring Meeting 2014.

There was also a report from the Conference Council whose purpose is to support, unite, and nurture the church of Jesus Christ in local settings and ministries of the N. CA Nevada Conference of the UCC.

One of the priorities of the Council is: Visitation of all churches in the Conference by the Council/Associations to discover the needs and priorities of our ministries; to determine avenues of support that conference structures can and should provide; to assist and enhance these ministries; and to provide encouragement and access to resources. The visitations would occur on a Sunday morning during the worship service.

The above is just a ‘thumb-nail sketch’ of some of the workings of our local church Association and also our Conference, both comprised of dedicated individuals, the service of whom I am very grateful.

## Annual Meeting: November 17, 2013

Many good things happened at our annual meeting. Our treasurer, **David Hough**, was able to report that for the second year in a row we will be able to balance the budget, and we passed our budget for 2014. We included a 5% increase in the salary of our wonderful pastor, Michele, and voted unanimously to approve it. Our moderator,

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**Connie Moore**, reported on our successful recruitment of members for the Joint Venture Board and CCAV Council and for our church committees. Especially exciting is that **Debbie Bemis** has agreed to be Vice Moderator for next year while Connie stays on as Moderator for one more year. With Debbie taking over as Moderator the following year, we now have our church leadership in place through 2015. We are also blessed to have **Tom Gerber** taking over as Treasurer in January, and we said thanks to David Hough for his several years of service as Treasurer. In a special part of the meeting set aside for expressing gratitude, Pastor Michele expressed thanks for the life of **Orlon Wiedrick**, who passed away this year. She also thanked **Dennis Elliott** for all his service to the church in the years that he was Church Administrator, and we gave thanks for the marriage of **Judy Martin and Dennis Elliott** last spring. **Ted Feely** expressed his gratitude for this church. We adjourned with a special prayer offered by Pastor Michele.

## Outreach

### *Special Offering*

To assist people in recovering from the disaster in the Philippines, we would like to invite you to make a special gift through the United Church of Christ. You may make out your check to CCAV-UCC and mark in the memo portion "UCC Disaster Relief—Typhoon Haiyan." If you give cash, please put in a blank envelope with designation and our Treasurer will send checks/cash to: UCC, Disaster Relief, Financial Services; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. We will collect donations for several Sundays.

**Note:** Disaster relief is handled by our UCC through Wider Church Ministries.

The UCC assistance will fund early response and long-term recovery efforts of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), and partners in the ACT Alliance

with significant operations in that country. The initial gifts will likely cover the cost of provisioning supplies, along with providing emergency shelter items, drinking water and money. Thank you for your generous sharing!

### *Christmas Fund For The Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund*

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund is a special Mission offering of the United Church of Christ that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ.

One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees—the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people.

Red envelopes will be made available for our contributions, and they will be found in our Sunday bulletin or in the narthex by the church office. Checks may be made out to CCAV,UCC with Christmas Fund Offering in the memo section; they may be placed in the offering plate any Sunday in December. The dedication for the offering will take place at our Christmas Eve service.

Look for upcoming Sunday bulletin inserts which will share stories of past recipients of our gifts.

Please prayerfully consider what you may share with these dedicated active or retired UCC clergy/lay church employees who need financial assistance.

### *Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*

On Friday evening November 15 and all of Saturday morning November 16 the annual lecture series of Stone Church of Willow Glen was held.

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The speaker this year was Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers, for 28 years the pastor of Mayflower Congregational UCC church in Oklahoma City.

Robin also is a tenured full professor of rhetoric in the philosophy department at Oklahoma City University.

For the four-and-a-half hours that he spoke over the two days, he had the rapt attention of his appreciative audience, and generously answered questions posed to him at the end of each lecture. As Father John Buenz, one of those in attendance and the first ECA rector put it, after the second talk, "Nothing new was said". Perhaps so, but I believe the message cannot be said/heard too often, until we "get it". The book by Barbara Brown Taylor, *THE LUMINOUS WEB*, informed much of Robin's message, "How Quantum Physics Is Redefining Almighty". If my memory serves me correctly Robin at one point said, "Pastors should be poets, and poets should be pastors". Anyone is welcome to borrow my copy of the three-lecture CD when it arrives in probably three weeks. He also said that churches should be counter-insurgency.

Robin was five years old in 1957 when he stood with his father, a pastor, at Central High School in Little Rock Arkansas, and watched with other supportive folks and those who were not, as the first African American young woman walked up the steps of that school; he saw one man who stepped forward and spit in the face of that brave person who merely wiped her face and continued on. That scene made an indelible impression on young Robin.

Robin told his audience that at "Mayflower" the congregants speak of "othering" in their ministry to those needing their help.

And after the scriptures have been read in the Sunday services, the person reading says: "Here ends this reading inspired by God (vs. "The word of the Lord" of which Robin said it is not)...May God grant us wisdom and courage for its interpretation".

Robin's lectures were not without some humor...He told his listeners that as he flies about the country, speaking to various groups, he's sometimes treated like a rock star; when he returns home his sculptor/art professor-wife reminds him, "Robin, take out the garbage"....>)

One of Robin's several books available for purchase during the week end, *SAVING JESUS FROM THE CHURCH*, may be borrowed from Phyllis.

To learn more about Dr. Robin Meyers and the ministry at "Mayflower" visit online at <http://www.mayflowerucc.org/>

Phyllis Chai

## Images of Internment

Dr. Henry Shimizu, a friend of Dick and Joan Okumura, has written and illustrated (with his 27 oil paintings) an informative and moving book about life in the New Denver (British Columbia, Canada) Internment Camp from 1942-1946. Joan kindly loaned her signed copy of the book to Hi Dong, and I in turn also read it.

The internment of all Japanese Canadians (and those in the U.S. as well) in 1942 was a very sad example of "man's inhumanity to man". Even so, I've never heard a bitter word said about that time by Joan Okumura, as well as Rev. Jack and Mary Takayanagi (also interned, at Manzanar, in the U.S.); Joan has said more than once, at least they were in a beautiful location, in a valley by Lake Slo-can, with mountains in the background.

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Without going into more detail about the book, to quote the artist/author: "One would have thought that this internment experience would have embittered this group and led to widespread despair and depression. Instead we came away from this experience more determined to be successful Canadians, contrary to the intention of those who promoted and carried out this injustice of internment and exile." We know for a fact that our friends not only became successful, but their lives have been a great inspiration to those of us who have been blessed to know them for many years.

May we all be vigilant, and with God's wisdom and grace, determined to never let such an injustice take place in our country again.

Our congregation will have another opportunity for a roundtable discussion on Sunday December 15, on the issue of Immigration Reform.

May God guide us as we prepare for and share during that experience.

Phyllis Chai

## December Birthdays

Lori Yang	12/2
Annie Laurie Hall	12/6
Susan Hamilton	12/6
Gloria Dunlap	12/13
Kathy Graham	12/17

## Christmas Has Come And Gone... Now What?

“When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.”

Howard Thurman

## Kalos Publication

Please remember you may take a copy of our *Kalos* Newsletter home each month if you are not reading on line. It is located along with other UCC info on the wall to the left of the sanctuary entrance.

*Kalos* appears on the CCAVUCC website and in a few printed copies for those who request a mailing. If you would like *Kalos* to be sent to your home, please contact Sue Scaff (sscaff@sbcglobal.net or 960-4452).

We encourage you to share stories and inspirations in our newsletter! Tell us about your experiences, your reflections, your hopes for the church, anything of interest to the community that you would like to share. Send us images, poems, links for our Inspiration section. We want to hear from you!

To submit an article, send it by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to kalos@ccavucc.org. Kalos editors are **Sue Scaff, Kathryn McAbee and Risa Feely.**

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